

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-30

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S/S -- JPMOFFAT

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R 282146Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214666

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, CZ, US
SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL TESTIFIED BEFORE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SEPT. 26 (SENATORS FULBRIGHT, BYRD, GRAVEL, LONG, BENNETT PRESENT). HE LAID STRESS ON FACT GOLD BELONGED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND U.S. WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF TRIPARTITE COMMISSION HAD TREATY OBLIGATION TO RETURN IT; THEREFORE THERE WAS NO LEGAL GROUNDS ON WHICH IT COULD BE SEIZED AND PROCEEDS OF ITS SALE APPLIED TO CLAIMS SETTLEMENT. MERRIGAN (LAW PARTNER OF EX-SENATOR SMATHERS) GAVE VIGOROUS TESTIMONY FAVORING RENEGOTIATION WITH VIEW TO FULL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS. SENATOR FULBRIGHT MADE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION FOR GETTING CLAIMS SETTLEMENT BEHIND US AS PART OF PROCESS OF MOVING DETENTE FORWARD. APPEARS UNLIKELY FINANCE"COMMITTEE WILL DROP AMENDMENT BUT GRAVEL INDICATED PRIVATELY TO US THAT HE WOULD BE CONSIDERING

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MODIFYING TERMS OF AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY

IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS. CLAIMANTS WHO FAVOR INITIALLED
SETTLEMENT MAY MAKE THEIR VOICES MORE AUDIBLE IN SENATE
BUT FATE OF AMENDMENT IN SENATE STILL UNCLEAR.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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